



Photos by 1st Lt. Nicole Walters

1st Lieutenant Jeremy Sparks protects a cowboy by distracting a bull Sunday at Cheyenne Frontier Days. Lieutenant Sparks, a Warren missileer, has been a CFD bullfighter for the past three years.



Right: Lieutenant Sparks dodges and weaves a graceful dance around one slightly angry bull.

Below: Lieutenant Sparks prepares to distract a bull while the bull rider tries to hold on.



Cowboy up

1st Lt. Nicole Walters
Public Affairs

F. E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, Wyo. -- The bullfighter stands focused: four hooves, two 18 inch horns and 2,000 pounds of bull, attempting to buck its rider, charges wildly toward the bullfighter.

1st Lt. Jeremy Sparks, 321st Missile Squadron missileer, has been fighting bulls and protecting cowboys at Cheyenne Frontier Days for the past three years.

Bullfighting isn't the safest of sports: Lieutenant Sparks was gored July 24 and kicked in the head July 28. Lt. Sparks wears protective padding, so the bull's efforts were in vain. He walked away with

mere scratches. Lieutenant Sparks says safety is paramount: the bullfighters and bull riders work together to minimize risks. "We take all the precautions we can and are proud to protect the cowboys on the bulls," he said. "I get to represent the Air Force in a unique way," said Lieutenant Sparks, who is the Air Force's only sponsored bullfighter. Lieutenant Sparks says being a bullfighter is a lot like being in the Air Force. There is a job to be done, a mission to remain focused on and people to keep safe. He proudly wears the Air Force logo to always remind the crowd of the importance of the Air Force and its mission.



The cowboy medics, including Warren emergency personnel, step in to help an injured bull rider while Lieutenant Sparks and Cheyenne Frontier Day entertainer Flint Rasmussen look on.